

# University Fair

11 March 2017



*Be Ambitious*



THE BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
SHANGHAI, PUXI

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

## *An Introduction*

### **Welcome from our Principal**

Welcome to the BISS Puxi University Fair 2017. As the first event of its kind at the school, we are delighted to be able to bring together so many universities from around the world and would like to express our thanks to them – and you – for taking the time to attend. We hope you find the event useful and informative.

The University Fair will provide you with a great opportunity to meet with university and college representatives and find out more about what their institutions have to offer, as well as giving you an insight into what different universities are looking for in their students.



*Dr Neil Hopkin*  
Principal

### **About the Fair**

The University Fair is a great place to start your university research and begin the process of thinking about your options for the future. It also provides an opportunity for you to find out about universities and courses that you may not have considered or even heard of before; you can meet members of staff from each institution, ask any questions you have and gain a better understanding of what it is you are looking for in a university while also finding out things you may not have thought of.

There is no rush to decide where or what you want to study whilst you are at the fair. It is an opportunity to collect prospectuses, request further information and exchange contact details with university representatives.



# Making the Most of the Fair

## Which course and university could be right for you?

The University fair is an ideal way to find out which universities would suit your interests, preferences, and academic strengths. Representatives from each university are on hand to discuss courses, what the university is like, where it is located, what its graduates go on to do, and more.

In order to make the most of the fair it is important that when you get your chance to speak to university representatives, you ask the right questions – those which will best help you make important decisions about your future.

### Things to consider:

## Where in the world do I want to study?

*Different countries have different systems of education* – in some countries (such as the UK) students usually specialise in a subject area from the very start; in other countries (such as the USA) it is common to take a range of subjects before specialising after two years of study. Which mode of study would suit you best?

## What are the university entry requirements?

*IB Scores* - some universities will ask students to achieve particular IB scores for specific courses (e.g. 38 IB points, including core points, to study Management at the University of Warwick). They may also require you to have taken particular subjects (e.g. HL Maths for some Economics courses) Other universities (for example, those in Hong Kong) will ask for a minimum predicted IB score in order for you to be considered but will expect you to achieve higher grades in order to be competitive.

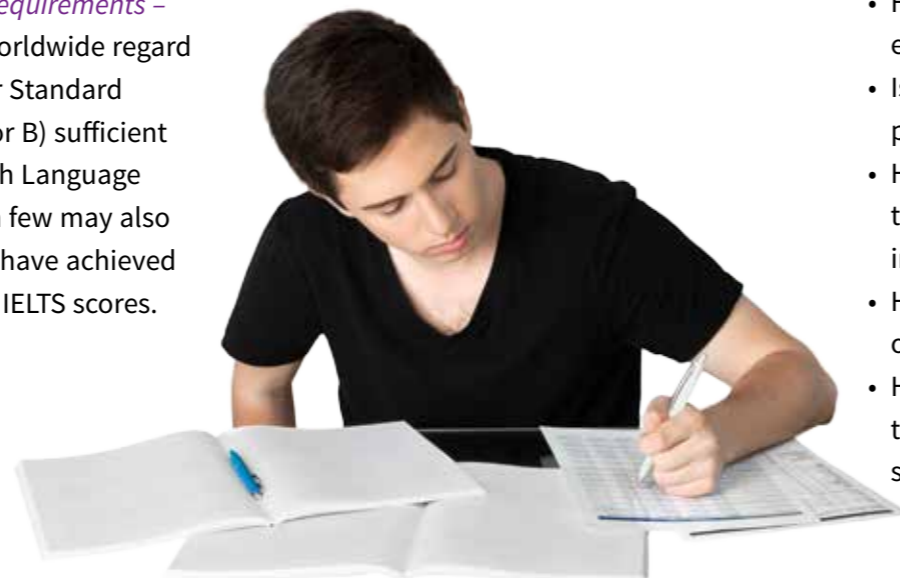
*Admissions Tests* - some universities, such as Oxford and Cambridge, require students to take admissions tests for some subjects. Some (but not all) US universities require students to have taken SAT or ACT tests.

*English Language Requirements* – most universities worldwide regard a 4 or 5 at Higher or Standard Level IB English (A or B) sufficient to meet their English Language requirements, but a few may also require students to have achieved minimum TOEFL or IELTS scores.

## Breakout Sessions

Breakout sessions will be taking place throughout the day, covering a range of topics, from choosing what and where to study, to country-specific presentations on applying to the UK, the USA, Hong Kong and Europe. Each session will last between 30 and 45 minutes. Please see the insert for more detailed information.

There will be limited capacity in the breakout session rooms, so we advise you to highlight the sessions you are interested in and arrive at the relevant location at least 5 minutes ahead of the start time to avoid disappointment.



## What qualities and skills does the university look for when considering applicants?

Don't try to match yourself to a university, rather try to pick a university that matches you. The fair is a chance to find out not just what a university requires of you, but what you are looking for in a university.

### Other things to consider:

- Does the University offer the course or major you are interested in?
- Which subjects does the university excel in offering?
- How many places are available on the course and how many applications are received each year?
- Are there any subjects or qualifications that are not acceptable for your course?
- How is the course assessed – by exam or continuous assessment?
- Is it possible to study abroad for part of the course?
- How flexible is the course? Is there scope to pursue special interests?
- How easy is it to change course or to study a subsidiary course?
- How is the course taught – through lectures, tutorials, seminars, laboratory work, other?

- What is the staff to student ratio?
- Where is the university based?
- What is the size of the university? Is it a campus university on the outskirts of a town, or a bustling city centre university?
- What's on offer in the town, city or campus in which the university is based?
- How far away is the university from an airport or other transport links?
- Do students 'live in'? Can all first years/freshmen be accommodated?
- How far away is the accommodation from the institution?
- What is the typical cost of accommodation?
- Does the university offer placements as part of their courses? Are there opportunities to gain valuable work experience through university-run schemes? Where are graduates from this course likely to find employment?
- What exemptions does this course give with respect to professional qualifications?
- How competitive is admission?
- What is the reputation of the university?
- What is the retention rate (i.e. what percentage of first year students continue at the university the next year)?
- Student facilities

- What student services are on offer (e.g. students' union, clubs, societies and sports/recreation facilities)?
- What support services are provided (e.g. careers service, counselling, finance and medical)?
- What support facilities exist for students with additional needs?
- Costs– financial support and expenses • What sponsorships and bursaries are on offer?
- Is taking a GAP year (or year out) acceptable or encouraged? If so, is specific experience sought?
- Should students apply during the last year of their current studies for deferred entry, or apply during their year out?
- What are the financial implications of taking a year out?
- Finding out more
- If students have any specific questions in the future, who should they contact?
- What are the arrangements for attending an open day or making a personal visit?
- Is there an alternative student prospectus? How do I get one?

## And finally...

Remember – there are no silly questions - The university representatives are there to answer your questions, no matter how big or small. Take a pad of paper and a pen to jot down notes.

### Higher Education Information: Advice and Guidance

As part of the IB Academy, the Higher Education Team at BISS Puxi works with students and parents to manage each step of the university application process and is experienced in guiding and advising students to help them find the route to Higher Education that is right for them. We are very happy to answer any questions or meet with parents.

### Contact Us

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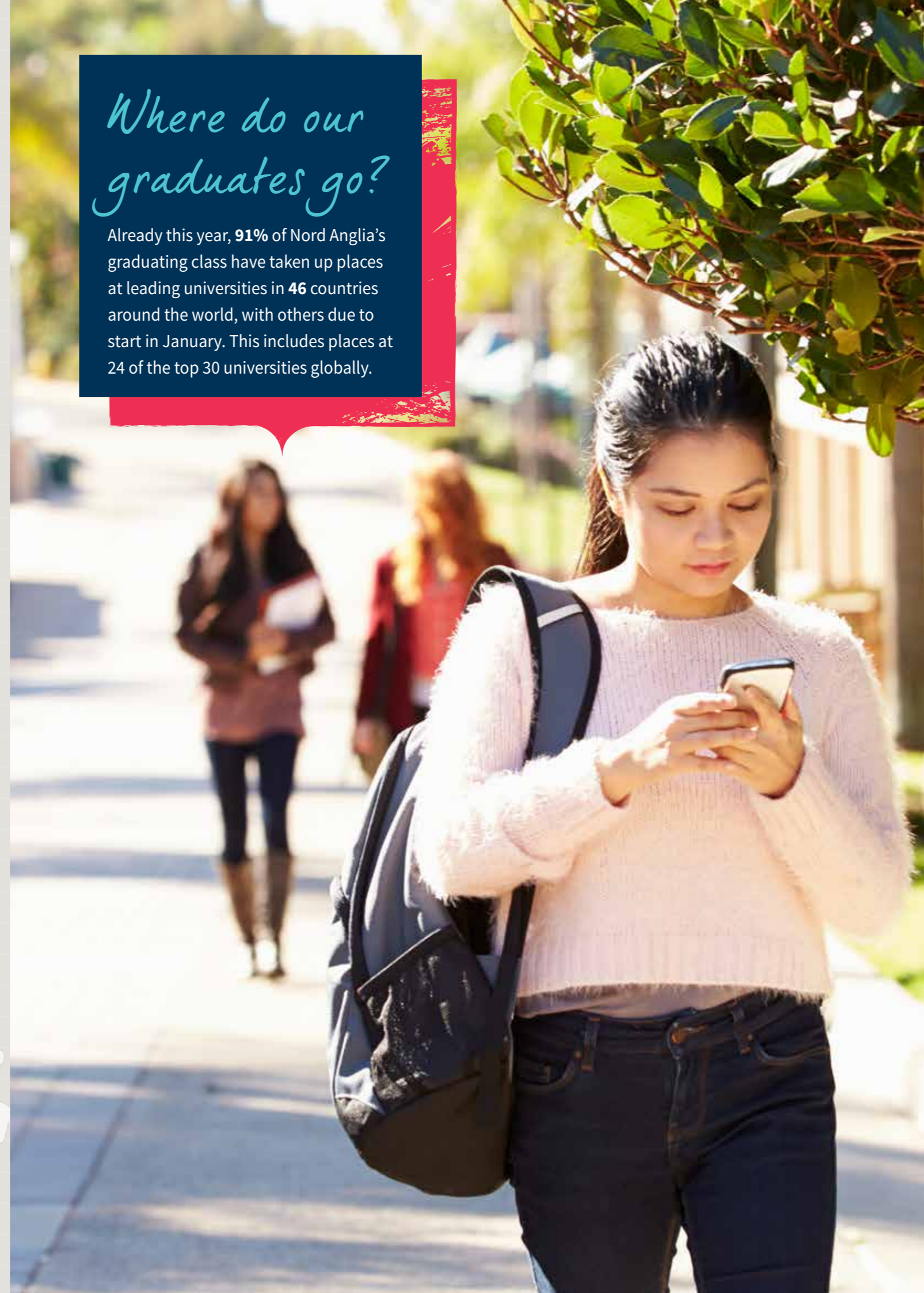
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## Where do our graduates go?

Already this year, **91%** of Nord Anglia's graduating class have taken up places at leading universities in **46** countries around the world, with others due to start in January. This includes places at 24 of the top 30 universities globally.



## Contact us

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## Email

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## General Enquiries

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*Be Ambitious*

We are ambitious for our students, and believe  
there is no limit to what they can achieve.

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